

Word from the stacks...

Librarians: Fighting the Tyranny of Info Overload

By Sue Dowdell

How has technology changed libraries?

Recently my colleagues asked me to answer this question, but where do I begin? This puzzle re-



Sean Coyle, automation service assistant, helps integrate the latest information technologies so researchers can find more relevant information faster

minds me of another question, one posed by the local Board of Finance to the Directors of the Seymour, CT, public library, where I work.

"Why should we give you more money for books?" asked one board member. "All the information we can ever want can be found online." At that time part of our response to this daunting challenge was sentimental; you can't cuddle up with a computer screen to enjoy a great story.

In the five years that have passed since that comment, our public library hasn't gone out of business. In fact, circulation has more than doubled. Laptops were purchased for patrons to use, but new technology didn't make the difference; the attention to patrons' needs did. Friendly staff, new programs, more books, an array of services, and better communication led to more books being taken out. Librarians made the difference, not the technology.

Yet, technology has certainly made an impact on libraries. This past June, a group of elementary students and I had a discussion

about how to find books in the library media center. One term I used really stumped them, the card catalog...Card Catalog? What's that, Mrs. Dowdell? Well, we used to use our fingers to shuffle through little cards to see if the library had the book on the topic we wanted...Those days are certainly gone. But what hasn't changed is the need to learn how to use the catalog. Whether there are cards to flip through or an online Enterprise system, students still have to learn the "rules" that the system follows. "Do you have this book?" is a question still asked at the desk, both ten years ago and today.

We often don't know where to start looking for answers. Technology has provided us with just too much information. Thinking about what to

- Continued on Back -

Addendum

By Kim Macomber

In response to the article in the last issue of this newsletter, I have been asked to clearly define plagiarism and provide examples.

According to the Oxford English Dictionary, 2nd edition, "**plagiarism**" is: 1. The action of plagiarizing; the wrongful appro-

priation or purloining, and publication as one's own, of the ideas, or the expression of the ideas (literary, artistic, musical, mechanical, etc.) of another. It comes from the Latin term "**plagiary**" which means "one who abducts the child or slave of another, a kidnapper; a seducer; also...a literary thief.

- Continued on Page 7 -

On the inside...

When is a Library is not a Library:	Page 2
Hours & Numbers:	Page 2
In Praise of JSTOR:	Page 3
Lylah's Book Notes:	Page 4
Fall Movie Favorites	Page 5
New Faces	Page 6
Editorial Policy	Page 7
Libraries & Technology	Page 8

When is a Library Not a Library, at Least Not in The Traditional Sense of The Term?

It's not the kind of thing that jumps out at you when you come into the Library, but it's there . . . the Suggestion Box. In fact, it is so well hidden that one might suspect that we don't want any suggestions. First, it's a residential mailbox, the kind you'd find on someone's porch. It's definitely smaller than a bread box, and hardly recognizable as a suggestion box. Second, it's tucked away, hanging on one of the posts in the Library's main floor reading room, near the display of faculty publications.

It's not that we don't welcome your suggestions. It's a remnant of another library administration. I wander by it every once and a while and check to see if a piece of paper has been placed inside. I always read whatever is there.

A recent contribution to the suggestion box asked the question, to the effect, why is the Library spending money on electronic signs and not on books and journals?

Please bear with me for a few minutes. I'll get to an answer shortly.

Let me return for a moment to the question that is the title of this article. When is a library not a library, at least not in the traditional sense of the term? In the traditional sense, a library

houses the transcript of human thought and the record of the human experience in the form of books and journals. The technology that puts print on paper is such that once printed, the content is static, unchangeable, immutable.



Mr. Dennis C. Benamati

For the authors of the printed word, there must be some sense of security (or perhaps dread) that no one can re-write their words and attribute to them something other than what they said.

Another fact of the traditional information environment that applies here is that it takes a considerable amount of time to write, edit, print and distribute a book or journal article. Unless an author is writing about a timeless subject, information printed in a book or article is often a bit out of date when it finally falls into the hands of a prospective reader. Thus, ideas and news are slower to disseminate when in print, and the expectation of the reader has been that it will be slower.

But expectations change when technology makes it possible for things to move faster. The City of Bridgeport grew up in this location in part because for a very long time this location was a day's ride from New York on the way to Boston. Now it's an hour's ride, and to accept the possibility that it would take an entire day for someone in the 21st Century to travel from New York to Bridgeport, is unthinkable.

With the development of new information technologies, comes the expectation that information will be immediately available. And print is sometimes just too slow a ride.

So, a library is not a library in the traditional sense when it is more than a storehouse for print, and when it is an access point to information in any form. When information comes in many forms, including on electronic signs, the Library is obliged to provide access to it.

Fall Semester - Hours &

Monday - Thursday 8:00 AM - Midnight
Friday 8:00 AM - 6:00 PM
Saturday 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Sunday 12:30 PM - Midnight

Columbus Day Weekend
 Sun, Oct 9: 12:30 PM - 8:00 PM
 Mon, Oct 10: CLOSED

Thanksgiving Weekend
 Wed, Nov 23: 8:00 AM - 1:00 PM
 Thurs, Nov 24: CLOSED
 Fri, Nov 25: CLOSED
 Sat, Nov 26: 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM
 Sun, Nov 27: 12:30 PM - Midnight

For more information, please call:
 Reference desk: x7726 (203-371-7726)
 Circulation desk: x7702 (203-371-7702)

Dennis C. Benamati
 University Librarian

In Praise of JSTOR

By Dr. Bryan Bademan

The faculty of Sacred Heart University should be very grateful that the Library has decided to add the JSTOR electronic journal database to its small, but growing collection of online offerings. JSTOR (short for "Journal Storage: The Scholarly Journal Archive") puts at our fingertips over a hundred years of scholarship in the disciplines of American Studies, English, History, Philosophy, Political Science, Psychology, Sociology, as well as the natural sciences and Mathematics. Without question it is the premier collection of academic journals--some of the best work in our various disciplines and fields.

First the bad news: JSTOR comes with a five-year "wall," which means that while we can access the full run of each of these journals (in some cases dating back to the nineteenth century), material from the most recent four or five years (i.e., the very latest scholarship) is not available. For this material we must continue to use our personal subscriptions or, somewhat less quickly, Inter-Library Loan (thank you, Sachi, for all your excellent work!).

But there is a glorious silver lining to this seemingly bad news. And here JSTOR proves itself absolutely invaluable to the dedicated scholar. As we know, our challenge as academic researchers and writers is not simply to generate information, adding yet more pages and citations to the zillions of published works that populate research libraries. No, our challenge is to speak clearly and persuasively to concerns that occupy and perplex our various disciplines. And in order to speak in this way, we must know something about the nature of

the conversations that have taken place in the history of our disciplines, conversations that of course go back much further than five years! And this is where JSTOR steps in. The journal archive can perhaps best be described as a historical record of hundreds, even thousands of ongoing conversations within the academy. Want to know how the study of sexuality changed as it traversed through the Sixties? JSTOR provides the primary sources for your inquiry. Want to get a sense for how changing political fortunes in this country have altered the study of politics? JSTOR, again, supplies nearly all you need--right in the comfort of your home or office!

One final plug: send your students to JSTOR. We are paying for their use as well, so they might as well take advantage of it. Assign some definitive or path breaking or lay-of-the-academic-landscape-type articles to your classes this year--put the url right on the syllabus. (They can even print two-to-a-page!) One might also use JSTOR to provide some historical depth to classroom discussions on topics in the various disciplines. In my own, I can imagine putting a Gilded-Age interpretation of the Civil War in conversation with a modern one, asking students to consider how each approaches the issue of race. Finally, when your students begin to cite third- and fourth-rate internet sites and you're struggling to articulate which type of published sources qualify for that elusive category of "academically-respectable," you now can say one word: JSTOR.

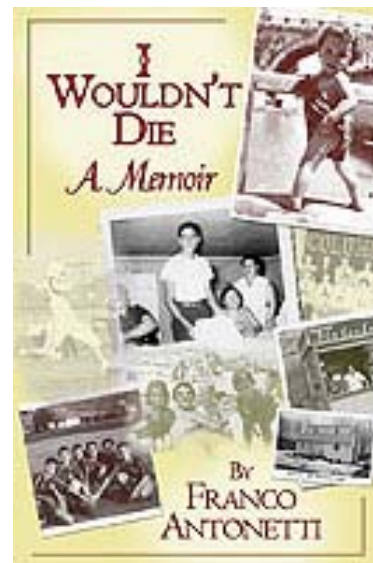
The SHU community can access JSTOR thru the Research Databases on the library website <http://library.sacredheart.edu>. We have subscribed to the Arts & Sciences package.

Upcoming Event:

October 5, 2005 Franco Antonetti author, of *"I Wouldn't Die: A Memoir"*, will be coming to Sacred Heart University for a book signing event.

Mr. Antonetti is an Italian-American who immigrated to the United States after World War II with his mother and brother. When arriving in the United States his family moved to New Jersey where Mr. Antonetti went to school and dreamed of becoming a success in this new country. With his dedication and perseverance he became a success at Mack Trucking and co-owner of a forklift company.

The event will take place at the Pitt Center Board Room from 12:30 to 3:00 PM. This event is sponsored by: Sacred Heart University Ryan-Matura Library, College of Arts and Sciences, Department of English & Modern Foreign Languages, and the Italian Club.

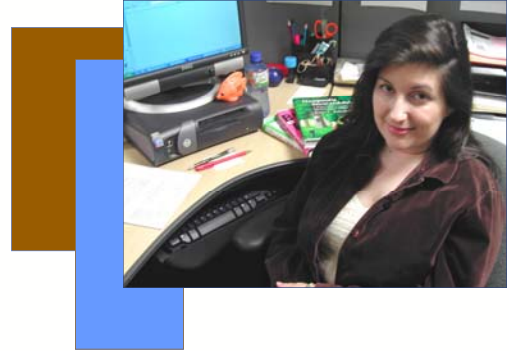


"I am writing now about a young boy who, during the Second World War in Rome, Italy, came close to losing his life so many times that it seemed a miracle he was alive at all... But he survived—by time and chance and God's grace—but also because he would not die."

- Franco Antonetti

Book Notes

By Lylah Franco



Happy Halloween!

Halloween has always been one of my favorite holidays. During my childhood, I was fortunate to have a grandmother who went all-out creating beautiful hand-made costumes for me each year. I also have a love affair with sugar, so the pillow cases full of candy didn't hurt, either. (When I was growing up, people still gave out full size candy bars, there wasn't yet any of this "fun size" nonsense!)

I'm a fan of ghost stories, either on the page or on the screen, and Halloween provides an opportunity for me to indulge this less intellectual side of my psyche. For some reason, there isn't as much guilt in the "guilty pleasure" of a paperback thriller if it's the Halloween season. However, I felt my indulgences were vindicated when the book reviewed below, which treats the horror genre as a sociological phenomenon worthy of academic study, arrived at the library.

Projected Fears: Horror Films and American Culture

by Kendall R. Phillips ★★ ★

Kendall Phillips admits in the dedication of his book to being a life-long fan of the horror genre. While non-fans may

not identify with his preferences, most should find this an interesting work nonetheless. Phillips analyzes ten unusually popular and enduring horror films, beginning with 1931's Dracula and concluding with 1999's The Sixth Sense. He re-

lates each film to the cultural, political and economic climate surrounding its release date to explain why these films resonated so strongly with the film-going public. Using the not-unfamiliar theory that monsters represent cultural fears, Phillips shows a progression from the supernatural (and culturally foreign) Dracula through the home-grown maniacs of the slasher films (Psycho, Halloween, The Silence of the Lambs) to the ghosts that can only be seen by one special little boy in The Sixth Sense. The demons, it seems, keep getting closer.

Particularly interesting is Phillips' chapter on director John Carpenter's Halloween (1978), a simple, low-budget slasher film that, perhaps not coincidentally, starred Jamie Lee Curtis, daughter of Psycho star Janet Leigh. Halloween spawned numerous sequels and imitations and remains one of the more influential hor-

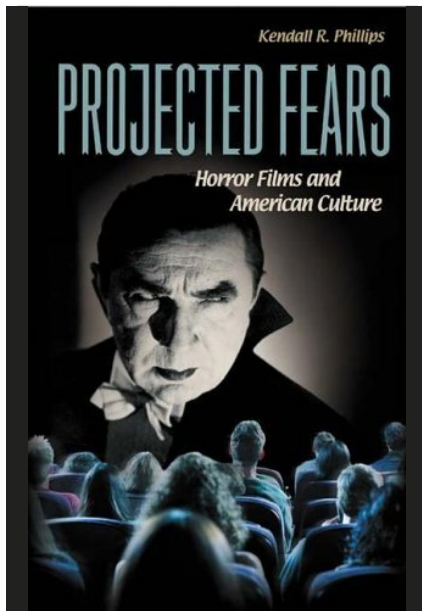
ror films of the late twentieth century. What Phillips claims made Halloween unique at the time of its release was that it turned the classic horror formula inside out. While the monsters of previous generations, from Dracula to the cannibalistic rednecks of The Texas Chainsaw Massacre, were inhuman outsiders threatening to invade the normal world, Halloween's Michael Myers is a vengeful child who functions to impose order in a chaotic world. The parents in Halloween's suburban Haddonfield are absent or too distracted to pay close attention to their teenage children. Instead it is Michael who punishes those who engage in sexual activity or drug use. Only Curtis's character, Laurie the babysitter, who functions as the "good mother" of the film, is spared. The formula used in Halloween would dominate the horror films of the 1980s and, Phillips writes, "Carpenter's simple, condensed version of the American horror genre fit with the simplistic condensed

***Inset:** Actor Max Schrek portrays a chilling vampire in F.W. Murnau's "Nosferatu, A Symphony of Horror." Recently E. Elias Mirhage revisited this 1922 silent film in 2000 with "Shadow of the Vampire," a fictional account of that movie's production in which Max Schrek (Willem Dafoe) is a real vampire hired to play himself on the silver screen.*

version of cultural politics promoted in the 1980s.”

Kendall Phillips is Associate Professor in the department of Communication and Rhetorical Studies at Syracuse University.

His book is not only good Halloween reading, but may also give you some ideas about what to watch while handing out candy.



Lylah Franco is Acquisitions Assistant at Ryan-Matura Library. She earned a BA in English from Southern Connecticut State University in 1998 and is a graduate student in Finance at SHU.

Remember...

...before you make it a Blockbuster night, try checking out some of these titles at Ryan-Matura Library's video (VHS) and media (DVD) sections...

For Halloween

- 📺 The Birds
- 📺 Cronos
- 📺 Psycho
- 📺 A Rose for Emily
- 📺 Thesis

Film Lovers' Classics

- 📺 Breathless
- 📺 Casablanca
- 📺 Citizen Kane
- 📺 Contempt
- 📺 Jules and Jim
- 📺 Vertigo

Other Favorites

- 📺 A Beautiful Mind
- 📺 Band of Brothers
- 📺 Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone
- 📺 Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring
- 📺 Saving Private Ryan
- 📺 Star Wars (1st trilogy)

Foreign Films

- 📺 Amélie
- 📺 Amores Perros
- 📺 Like Water for Chocolate
- 📺 The 400 Blows

Documentaries

- 📺 Bowling for Columbine
- 📺 The Buena Vista Social Club
- 📺 Night and Fog
- 📺 Nova

More Halloween Reading at Ryan-Matura Library:

- 📖 Carrie - Stephen King
- 📖 The Dunwich Horror and Others
H. P. Lovecraft
- 📖 The Turn of the Screw
Henry James
- 📖 The Gothic
David Punter and Glennis Byron
- 📖 Horror, The Film Reader
Mark Jancovich
- 📖 The Murders in the Rue Morgue, and Other Tales
Edgar Allan Poe

New Faces in Learning Resources and Services

By Dennis Benamati

As part of our efforts to improve the delivery of learning resources at the University, we have been gradually adding staff positions. As a result, there have been a number of additions to the staff since the spring semester. Please welcome and congratulate the following :

Instructional Technology -

Dr. David M. Demers, Director of Instructional Technology. Dr. Demers came to SHU from the University of Connecticut Health Center

nology to the delivery of instruction and instructional content; developing faculty expertise in the use of technology to enhance teaching, learning and research; and assisting the faculty in designing and using assessment mechanisms for the online and technology enhanced classroom. His office is located in the Ryan-Matura Library.

University Library -

Shawn R. Fields, Reference Librarian. Mr. Fields joins the staff as a reference librarian

covering afternoon and evening hours from Sunday through Thursday. Prior to coming to SHU, he was a circulation assistant at the Arnold Bernhard Library at Quinnipiac University. Before entering the profession of librarianship, he held positions as regional recruiting manager for Bankers Life and Casualty Co. and regional sales engineer for Lindab, Inc. of Stamford. He received his M.L.S. from Southern Connecticut State University and a B.S. in Business Management from the University of Connecticut.

In addition to his reference duties, Mr. Fields will be assisting with a number of substantial projects in the Ryan-Matura Library this coming year, including

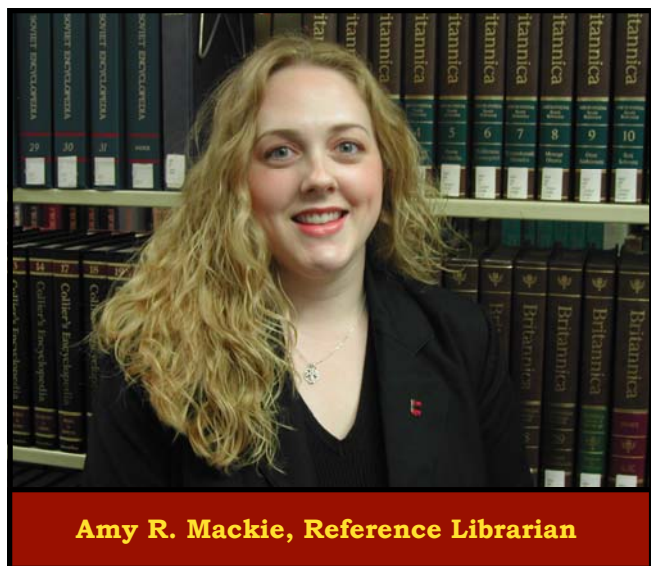


Dr. David M. Demers
Director of Instructional Tech.

an inventory of the circulating collection and the development of fund-raising opportunities.

Amy R. Mackie, Reference Librarian

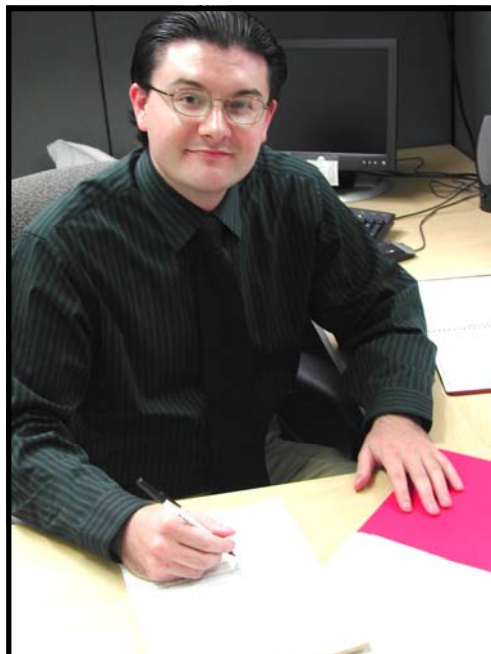
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Amy R. Mackie, Reference Librarian

where he was Associate Director for Administration and Information Technology. He received his B.Sc. in Biological Sciences and his Ph.D. in Cell and Molecular Biology from the University of California, Riverside. Dr. Demers has held faculty positions in biology and information technology and is author of numerous books and articles on both subjects.

In his position, he is responsible for supporting faculty efforts in applying tech-



Shawn R. Fields,
Reference Librarian

Plagiarism

- Continued from Page 1 -

Current examples of plagiarism can be found listed on the University's Policy on Academic Integrity. They include, but are not limited to, the following:

Copying whole papers or passages from another student or from any source.

Allowing another student to copy or submit one's work.

Buying or obtaining a paper from any source, including term paper sellers and internet

sources, and submitting that paper or passages of it as one's own work.

Pasting a passage from the internet or any computer source into one's paper without quoting and attributing the passage.

Fabricating or falsifying a bibliography.

Falsifying one's results in scientific experiments, whether through fabrication or copying them from another source.

Appropriating another person's computer programming work for submission as an assignment.

When creating a web page, film, or musical composition as a course assignment, failing to attribute material that comes from other media or failing to obtain proper permission for the use of such material

Any other appropriation of another's intellectual property without proper attribution.

In conclusion, plagiarism is basically the stealing of someone's ideas, part of their creative being, whether written, verbal, or visual. In my opinion, that is the worst form of stealing.

New Faces

- Continued from Previous Page -

Librarian. Ms. Mackie joins the staff as a reference librarian. She also comes to SHU from Quinnipiac where she was Secretary to the Assistant Dean of Advising. Prior to entering the profession, she was Public and Private Sector Affairs Coordinator with Americans for the Arts and has held several government affairs and public relations internships. Ms. Mackie received her B.A. in political science from the University of Tennessee, M.A. in legislative affairs from George Washington University and M.S. in library and information science from Drexel University.

Ms. Mackie's background in political science and government affairs prepares her for work as liaison to the social science departments. Like Mr. Fields, she will be assisting in the development of fund-raising opportunities for the Library.

SHU's Ryan-Matura Library Newsletter

Summer 2005, Issue 1:2

Word from the Stacks...

Editor: Matilde Renata Cioffi

Design & Layout: Mark Stanczak

Copy Editor: Mark Stanczak

Committee Members:

Lylah Franco, Kim Macomber &
Amy Mackie

Editorial Policy

Submission of articles or opinion letters:

All submissions of articles or opinion letters must be sent to the editor via e-mail at cioffim@sacredheart.edu for publishing consideration.

Submissions must be received by deadline date to be considered for upcoming publication.

Space availability will be considered when deciding whether to incorporate an article.

Byline of the author submitting article or opinion letter will be published.

Submissions without bylines will not be published.

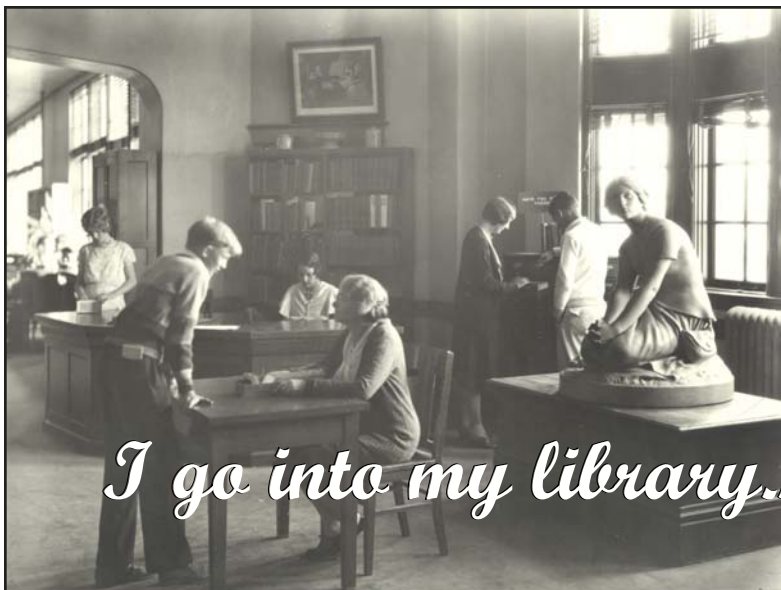
Any submissions by a group or a committee must have all the members' names on the piece.

Content:

Submitted articles can deal with any number of issues either controversial or not.

The editor reserves the right to deem an article inappropriate for publication if it is used for personal attacks or complaints.

The editor and copy editor reserve the right to edit either the style or length of any submitted article.



I go into my library...

Photo by William C. Eymann

... and all
history unrolls
before me

Alexander — Smith

- Continued from Page 1 -

write here, I began to compare searching on Yahoo! and Google to using databases like those available to us at SHU. A search for “first library” on Google and Yahoo! gave me 154 million and 110 million hits respectively. To use a search engine may be a researcher’s first reflex, but can it retrieve the *correct* information?

It takes time to learn the nuances of databases that will lead us to peer-reviewed, full-text articles that we know will help students write papers. But, has technology made a student's job easier? I don't think so. Gone are the days when professors want only text sources, which contain information that has been checked by other professionals. We need people now more than ever. We need the librarians to teach us how to narrow our search, how to use good search terms, how to use the online catalog and the databases, and how to cite our sources.

Technology has certainly changed the amount of information available and how we find it, but we still need people who staff the libraries to purchase the books and to teach us how to efficiently find the information we need.

Sue Dowdell received her MLS in 2003 and can be found at the Ryan-Matura Library's reference desk on Saturdays. In her other life, she is the Library Media Specialist for the three elementary schools in Seymour, CT and teaches IL 101 at SHU.

